



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF  
WATER AND  
WATERSHEDS

JAN 25 2012

Reply to Attn of: OWW-130

Mr. Corey A. Willard  
Environmental Superintendent  
U.S. Silver – Idaho, Inc.  
P.O. Box 440  
Wallace, Idaho 83873

Re: Application for Renewal of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, US Silver  
Coeur and Galena Mines and Mills, NPDES Permit No. ID0000027

Dear Mr. Willard:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency received the NPDES application materials referenced above on January 3, 2012. The current permit expires on June 30, 2012.

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 122.21(d), permittees with currently effective permits, "shall submit a new application at least 180 days before the existing permit expires." The EPA received your application on January 3, 2012, which was at least 180 days prior to the expiration date. Therefore, the application for renewal is timely.

An application to the EPA for an NPDES permit is complete when the Director receives an application form and any supplemental information which are completed to his or her satisfaction under 40 C.F.R. § 122.21(e)(1). We have completed our review of the application and have determined that it was complete as of January 3, 2012. The federal regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 122.6(a) state:

When EPA is the permit-issuing authority, the conditions of an expired permit continue in force under U.S.C. 558(c) until the effective date of a new permit (40 C.F.R. § 124.15) if: (1) The permittee has submitted a timely application (40 C.F.R. § 122.21), which is a complete application for a new permit (40 C.F.R. § 122.21(e)); and (2) The [EPA], through no fault of the permittee does not issue a new permit with an effective date pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 124.15 on or before the expiration date of the previous permit.

Therefore, your existing permit will remain effective and enforceable until the EPA grants or denies your application for a new permit. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 122.6; 5 U.S.C. 558(c).

Please note that the EPA may request additional information during the development of the draft permit to clarify, modify, or supplement previously submitted material. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Olson at (206) 553-0176.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Lidgard".

Michael J. Lidgard, Manager  
NPDES Permits Unit